Appl. No. 09/645,479
Amdt. dated April 19, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 18, 2003

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-25 were pending. Claims 1, 12, 21 and 22 have been amended and new claims 26-28 have been added. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, which is respectfully requested, claims 1-28 will be pending..

The specification was objected to as including a computer program listing containing more than three hundred (300) lines of code. Accordingly, a compact disc conforming to the standards set forth in 37 CFR 1.96(C)(2) has been submitted including the computer code set forth in Appendix A as originally filed. Additionally, an appropriate reference to the newly added computer program listing appendix on compact disc has been inserted at the beginning of the specification.

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-19 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by Freivald et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,983,268 (hereinafter "Freivald").

Claims 7, 11, 20 and 24-25 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Freivald in view of Ohashi, U.S. Patent No. 6,408,297.

Freivald is directed to a system and method for detecting and alerting to changes to numerical fields in pre-identified (*i.e.*, registered) web pages. A user identifies a web page using its URL and a responder fetches the web page and generates markers for identifying locations of numeric data field(s) identified by the user in the web page. A spreadsheet user-interface is provided that allows the user to set up formulas that specify calculations to be made on the numeric data field(s) from the web page. The system periodically re-fetches the web page and extracts fresh numeric values from the fresh copy of the web page from locations identified by the markers. The results of the user-entered formulas are recalculated using the fresh numeric values, and a change in the numeric data field(s) of the web page that cause a recalculated result to exceed a predetermined condition are signaled to the user.

It is respectfully asserted that Freivald fails to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention as is recited in all independent claims. For example, with regard to claim 1, Freivald fails to teach or suggest the limitation of parsing a model page to generate a first string of symbols associated with a plurality of HTML tags as is recited therein. Freivald, to the

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contrary teaches a parser 32 that reads characters from a highlighted portion of a source document to determine the numeric string within that portion. A marker is also determined, for example several characters before or after the identified numeric string, for use in locating the numeric field later. Thus, Freivald is only concerned with identifying a numeric string/data field that is already present in the page. The present invention to the contrary, parses the content of a highlighted portion of a model page and generates a string of symbols associated with the HTML tags in that portion of the model page. For example, tag elements in the page may be translated to unique numbers or characters. Nowhere does Freivald teach or suggest generating a string of symbols associated with HTML tags.

Freivald also fails to teach or suggest the limitations of retrieving a second web page associated with a URL different that the model page, parsing the second page to generate a second string of symbols, and comparing the first and second strings as are recited in claim 1. Freivald, to the contrary, teaches detecting changes in the same web page, *i.e.*, changes to a web page at a specific URL. That is, Freivald teaches re-fetching a registered web page, identified by a specific URL, and using specific, marked numeric data fields in preset calculations. Frievald also teaches that multiple web pages may be similarly marked, re-fetched and the numeric data fields used in preset calculations for just that page or in combined calculations where data from multiple pages are used. In the single page calculation case, the numeric values from the same page are used in a preset calculation and no comparison is made of strings from two different pages. In the combined calculation case, Freivald also fails to teach or suggest comparing strings from a model web page and a second web page having a different URL to determine whether portions are similar as is claimed. Rather, the calculations are preset, and there is no teaching of a comparison. The Examiner has cited to column 9, lines 48 -50 of Freivald for the proposition that an equal sign "=" indicates comparison. However, upon a reading of this section, it is clears that the equal sign "=" referred to is used solely as part of a calculation. That is, the equal sign "=", is used solely as an assignment to provide the value for the actual calculation performed, and does not suggest a comparison.

Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that independent claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom, based at least on their dependency, are patentably distinguished over

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Freivald for at least the above reasons. Independent claims 12, 21 and 22 include similar limitations as presented in claim 1. Applicants therefore also respectfully assert that these claims and all claims depending therefrom are similarly distinguished for at least the above reasons. It is noted that the remaining cited references also fail to teach or suggest the limitations of the independent claims not found in Freivald.
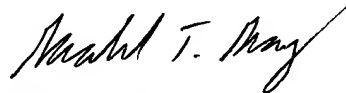
With regard to new independent claim 26, for similar reasoning as above, it is respectfully asserted that Freivald fails to teach or suggest the limitations of generating a first string of symbols for a plurality of HTML tags associated with a first area of interest in a model page, retrieving a second web page associated with a different URL than the model page and generating a second string of symbols for the HTML tags of the second web page. Further, for similar reasoning as above, Freivald also fails to teach or suggest the limitation of comparing as is recited in claim 26.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,

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